

State Open Teams Championship 2007 METROPOLITAN SECTION

NICK HUGHES, NSWBA CONVENER

Dear Tournament Secretary

The NSWBA will convene the Metropolitan Section directly this year and will host the Metropolitan final as well as the State final series.

In particular please note the following recent changes:

- No charge per player per session.
- A graduated scale of entry fees to the Metropolitan final – the more teams you send to the final, the less you pay for each team.
- Raising the maximum number of teams you can nominate directly to the Metropolitan final (if you do not hold a qualifying event) from three to five.
- **Change in finals format to ensure more bridge for teams making the finals.**

We welcome your club's participation in this event and look forward to receiving as many entries as possible to the Metropolitan final.

1. This Championship is a section of the State Open Teams Championship. The Metropolitan Final will be held at the NSWBA (9264-8111) on **Sunday 9 September 2007, starting at 10 am**. The winner and runner-up will both be eligible to play in the Final Series of the State Teams to be played at the NSWBA on the weekend starting **Friday 14 December 2007**.

2. Clubs not wishing to run a qualifying competition may nominate one team per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of five teams. All players in a nominated team must be financial members of the nominating club.

Entry fees for teams to the Metropolitan final will be due as follows:

Number of teams sent to the final	Cost per team	Total charge to the club
1	\$130	\$130
2	\$120	\$240
3	\$110	\$330
4	\$100	\$400
5	\$90	\$450
6 and more	\$80	\$480+

3. The Tournament Regulations follow. Please read them carefully. It is your responsibility to adhere to these regulations. A copy of the regulations should be given to each team that qualifies to the Metropolitan Final. If any problem arises over the interpretation of the regulations, please consult the convener.

4. Timetable. Clubs should carefully note the following dates:

Completion of qualifying rounds at club level: **Monday, 27 August 2007**

Club results to be received by the convener by: **Monday, 3 September 2007**

Metropolitan Final at NSWBA: **Sunday, 9 September 2007, 10 am**

5. **State Open Teams Finals to be held at the NSWBA:**

Round Robin Qualifying 2 x 16 board matches commencing 7:30 pm Friday 14 December 2007

3 x 16 board matches commencing 10.00 am Saturday 15 December

Final 56 boards commencing 10:00 am Sunday 16 December

Teams not playing the final may choose to enter the Christmas Pairs Congress on the Sunday.

6. All correspondence regarding this Championship should be addressed to the convener:

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METROPOLITAN SECTION – SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. The State Open Teams Championship is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the Tournament Regulations of the New South Wales Bridge Association, as amended.
2. Qualifying for the Final Series is divided into three sections:
 - 2.1 The NSWBA Qualifying event qualifies 3 teams to the Final Series.
 - 2.2 The Metropolitan section qualifies 2 teams to the Final Series via the Metropolitan Final.
 - 2.3 The Country section qualifies 1 team to the Final Series via the Country Final.
3. Qualifying Conditions
 - 3.1 Clubs holding a qualifying tournament must send at least one team to represent the club at the Metropolitan Final in order to receive red masterpoints for a club qualifying competition and to get the benefits of the discounted entry fees specified in the table above.
 - 3.2 Any team that finishes in the top half of the field may be sent, provided it is a *bona fide* competing team. This means that the team must have entered and played the club qualifying event as a team - it is not allowable for players who have qualified in different teams to play together in the Final as club representatives.
4. Yellow Systems are not permitted in club qualifying events. Yellow Systems will be permitted in the Metropolitan Final in accordance with the NSWBA regulations in force at the time and subject to receipt by the convener of system and other material required under the NSWBA regulations on or before 3 September 2007.
5. Players must have an active Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.
6. Players do not have to be members of the club at which the qualifying competition is held but must be resident in the Sydney Metropolitan area, or play a significant amount of bridge at one or more clubs located in the Sydney Metropolitan area, if they wish to participate in the Metropolitan section.
7. Qualifying may take the form of a teams event or butler pairs competition over a maximum of **six** sessions. Clubs may run two separate qualifying sections, provided one section is played during the day and the other at night.
8. Directors must be qualified at Club level or above.
9. Qualification to Metropolitan Final
 - 9.1 Teams placed in the top half of the field(s) are eligible to play in the Metropolitan Final.
 - 9.2 Any substitution in, or augmentation to, a team that plays in the Metropolitan Final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations (see Section 4 of those regulations) and must be approved by the Convener prior to the commencement of the final.

A team can only be augmented by a single player or by a pair. Notwithstanding the above, the Convener, in his/her absolute discretion, shall have the right to accept or reject nominations which may be outside these guidelines, in order to facilitate the running of this event. Players should not assume a favourable decision by the Convener.
10. Masterpoints
 - 10.1 Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level (B). Red masterpoints are to be calculated by the club masterpoint secretary on a weighting of 5.0.
 - 10.2 Red masterpoints are awarded on a sessional basis only; i.e. there is NO outright award. If a club runs a qualifying session(s), followed by a final and consolation, only the players in the final will receive red masterpoints.
 - 10.3 The red masterpoints awarded must not be entered on the club's quarterly or monthly return to the ABF Masterpoint Centre but must instead be sent to the convener. They may be entered on Congress Award forms (obtainable from the ABF Masterpoint Centre) showing the names and ABF numbers of all players in the section who have won masterpoints, or on an ABF formatted file on a 3.5 inch virus-checked diskette, or as an

email attachment. They should not be sent to the ABF Masterpoint Centre by e-mail.

- 10.4 **Red masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying competition if at least one team from that clubs plays in the Metropolitan final.**
11. The Convener will require the following no later than **3 September 2007**:
 - 11.1 A complete copy of the results of each session, noting any change of personnel between sessions. A hard copy is preferred, though a Word/text/pdf file is also adequate.
 - 11.2 The completed Congress Award form, or diskette/email attachment in .mp3 or .red format.
 - 11.3 a list of those teams that will be playing in the Metropolitan Final including names and ABF numbers
 - 11.4 A cheque for the masterpoints and entry fees. Masterpoint costs are calculated at **\$0.95 per masterpoint**. Entry fees are calculated according to the table on the first page. Cheques are to be made payable to the NSWBA.

NOTE: No nominations or entries will be accepted unless payment is received together with all of the requirements listed above.

12. Metropolitan Final
 - 11.1 The Metropolitan Final will be held as a Swiss or Round Robin or Knockout & Repechage teams competition over two sessions on Sunday 9 September 2007 at the NSWBA, 10am start.
 - 11.2 Matches will be of at least 6 boards using the appropriate WBF Imp to VP conversion scale.
 - 11.3 The top two (accepting) teams from the Metropolitan Final are eligible to advance to the Final Series at the NSWBA on 14-16 December 2007. There is **no table money** for the final series..

Considering the length of the competition clubs are advised to urge their players to enter as teams of five or six to allow some flexibility for later stages of the event.